Growth Rate (in %)

Sector/Industry	2007-08 (Apr-Dec)
Mining & Quarrying	4.9
Electricity	6.6
Manufacturing *of which*	9.6
Basis Chemicals & Chemical Products	10.6
Machinery & Equipment	11.9
Food Products	5.9
Basic Metals & Alloy Industries	14.2
Rubber, Plastic, Petroleum & Coal Products	10.1
Cotton Textiles	4.6
Non-Metalic Minerals	7.0
Transport Equipment & Parts	3.0
Metal Products & Parts	(-) 7.0
Paper & Paper Products	1.9
Other Manufacturers	20.6
Textile Products	3.9

Thus, there has been some deceleration in industrial growth during the current period. The high interest rate and the strong rupee are believed to be the factors, among others, for the current deceleration in some specific industries.

Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth. This includes, *inter-alia*, de-licensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and Central excise, better infrastructure support, upgradation of technology and liberal FDI regime. In addition, the Government approved Rs. 500 crore for interest subvention for exporters, in addition to the Rs. 300 crore made earlier. This measures is designed to provide mitigation, to a great extent, of the effect of the rupee appreciation on export sector through availability of cheaper credit to exporters thereby improving their international competitiveness etc. The Free Trade Agreements with other countries keeps in view India's overall interest in a longer term perspective.

Doha round of WTO negotiations

644. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the next round of negotiations on Doha Round of WTO are going to be held;

(b) the issues that are going to come up for the negotiations;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is willing to show some flexibility to make the negotiations successful;

(d) if so, what kind of flexibility is India willing to make at Doha; and

(e) how the 'flexibility' helps India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) After the release of the draft modalities on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) on 8 February, 2008, the negotiations on these modalities commenced from 18 February 2008 at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Under the Rules negotiations, the Chairman's draft text of 30 November, 2007 is also being discussed. The important issues that are going to come up for negotiations are the modalities in Agriculture, NAMA, Services and Rules. The Government has specific negotiating position in all these areas. Any flexibility to be shown by India is contingent upon the flexibilities required from the round itself addressing our trade interests, domestic sensibilities and honour the development dimension of the Doha mandate.

Non-cooperation of Pakistan in export and import

†645. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is not co-operating with India in the business of export and import;

(b) whether a huge stock of goods is lying in the loading M.T.R. shed in Amritsar for export;

(c) the loss incurred to the Indian traders due to it during the last two years; and

(d) the details of effective measures being taken by Government to maintain the trade balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No instances of Non-cooperation by Pakistan has come to the notice of Customs at Land Customs Station, Attari Road, where only export of goods to Pakistan is allowed and at Rail Cargo, Amritsar, where both imports and exports between India and Pakistan are allowed. No stock of goods for export to Pakistan is lying in Loading MTR Shed.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Subsidy to sugar exports

646. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leading global sugar producers have joined hands and approached the World Trade Organisation (WTO) asking the multilateral body to seek details from India on subsidy to exporters at a time when the country is set to double exports of sweetener; and

(b) if so, the details of response of Government thereto and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) At a regular meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held in Geneva on

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.